

From U. S. Biological Survey  
Washington, D. C.

Release April 2.

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF CCC CELEBRATED  
ON WILDLIFE REFUGE

U. S. Biological Survey  
Congratulates Boys  
on "Good Job"

C. C. C. boys doing development work on the Sand Lake Migratory Waterfowl Refuge along the James River in Brown County, S. Dak., have done a good job, says Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey in congratulating the boys on the fourth anniversary of the C. C. C.

The Sand Lake camp is beginning today (April 2) an anniversary celebration that will include an open house today, tomorrow, and Sunday. The boys are also issuing a special edition of their camp paper, "The Ducklin", including a history of the refuge and camp. Visitors are invited.

C. C. C. boys on seventeen wildlife refuges are contributing man-power for the Biological Survey's nation-wide refuge program says the Bureau Chief. They are in general doing two important things, making the areas more attractive to the birds and making the refuges easier to administer.

One of these areas, the Sand Lake Refuge was established by an Executive order of President Roosevelt on September 4, 1935, as a breeding place for waterfowl and a resting ground during their migrations. The area now includes about 15,000 acres, with further additions being planned.

Despite drought conditions last year, the Sand Lake Refuge provided for a surprising number of waterfowl and shorebirds. During the spring of 1935 about 25,000 blue and snow geese visited the refuge. The principal nesting ducks last year were blue-winged teal, shovelers, gadwalls, pintails, mallards, ruddy ducks, and redheads. Thousands of Franklin's gulls remained over a month,

and the shorebird flight was larger than any seen locally in many years. Marbled godwits, avocets, willets, and northern phalaropes were noted during migration, and on one day at least 1,000 stilt sandpipers visited the refuge.

The C. C. C. boys' accomplishments have made the birds feel more at home on the Sand Lake Refuge, says the Biological Survey Chief. The boys have been working only since June 27, 1935, but they have built a diversion dam for a waterfowl pool, have developed lakes and ponds, and have planted or seeded 1,210 acres to cover and feed for wildlife. All this makes Sand Lake a more attractive place for wildlife.

Other work, says the Survey, has been done to facilitate administration of the refuge and protection of the wildlife. The C. C. C. boys have constructed two garages and seven other necessary buildings at the refuge headquarters. They have built two lookout towers where observers can spot fires and violators, and they have made 56 miles of firebreaks, 5 miles of truck trail, and a vehicle bridge--all indispensable in protecting the refuge from fire and other damage. The boys have themselves spent 577 man-days fighting fire. They have done many other things, too--marked 65 miles of refuge boundary, did 23,980 rods of fencing, and tore down old undesirable structures.

"This work", says Dr. Gabrielsen, "is an important part of the restoration of our American wildlife, an invaluable resource of great benefit to all Americans. The next time that you see ducks flying across the sky or gabbling on their resting grounds, you can say to yourself, 'Well, it may be that some of those birds are there because the C. C. C. boys have been doing a good job over on the Sand Lake Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.'"

\*\*\*